

## Organizing Kit Working Group Minutes

September 29th 2nd meeting OM&S

Present: Joe, Valentine, Saskia, Martin, Elke, Mary, Jane, Bronwen, Baby

### Agenda

- Check in - Additional items for the agenda
- Clarity on the role of OMS Working Group - Bronwen
- Organizing kit: looking at the US, British and Sydney Brochure as a group together
- identifying which areas/sections of the US Organizing Kit working group members want to work on

(Start 1 minute silence)

- **Check in - Additional items for the agenda**

Group checked in: **Joe**: to Israel in May, **Valentine**: planning new work in Conn. **Mary**: working with Homeboy and community basics and CA gathering coming up end of October. **Saskia**: training 8 new facilitators including 2 16 yr olds, new coordinator and writing policy manual. and designing website and brochure, **Martin**: Canada Annual meeting, talking to Liz Schroder about the possibility of running a world gathering either in 3 years or in 6 years. **Jane**: preparing for National Gathering in UK on the 11th & 12th. **Elke**: in prison program last 3 days. Facilitator workshop coming up in November. Yearly meeting in Nov. in Germany with 20 years of AVP. **Bronwen**: finishing Spanish translation of manual. **Baby**: Annual meeting, building relationships with other organizations

- **Clarity on the role of OMS Working Group - Bronwen**

Bronwen says AVPI is committee based organization. Working on written structure. Organizational affair committee is like palm of hand. there will be 5 major projects, legal affairs, membership, policies and procedures, facilitator issues (admin), Organizational Managing & Support to provide resources on how-to kit. Joe will be the convener to talk with other group conveners.

- **identifying which areas/sections of the US Organizing Kit working group members want to work on**

Anand said in last call the US version of the Organizing kit is generalizable. Joe is suggesting we work with this. Large parts are duplicatable. Valentine says UK version has more structure. Flow chart of an overview would be helpful. Overall, International is more focused on community than in prison. Valentine: how do you start a local group is what people want? Many places no national group to assist in growing structure.

Romania: annual meeting changed office building relationships with other organizations. Got support from Hungary. We made our own association. Went after legal status. Began with founding an association as a first step. UK: the equivalent is forming a charity in order to raise money. Joe: then have structure to develop on. Romania: we have a structure based on our legacy. Management and control of association is from general assembly, board of directors, followed a legal procedure.

Jane: make a list that would be in a general kit. Saskia: infusing organizational operations with AVP structure and principals. Joe: want to honor the needs of individual countries. Sees existing kits as resource.

Martin: look at when things go wrong as a starting point. (New Zealand fell apart...look at this) Is it ok to be AVP and have a legal structure..yes. Romania: we have to have legal structure but this is how we can work. Elke: 30 active members in Germany. Works like a local group. Our structure is like a local group in US. We don't have an Organizing Kit, need to translate the existing versions. Bronwen says we would translate the Organizing Kit into different languages. Mary: do we need regional areas picking and choosing their own needs rather than central development. Joe: advocating for a template by area. The prison work in US kit really is not applicable in rest of world. Bronwen: people who are starting group want to know who to talk to, how do I find a partner. looking for list how to approach human rights groups, a chaplain, etc.

Frequently asked questions format. This can be easily added to. A local group can add their own material.

How to divvy up the work...develop a template.

- forming a local group
- forming a group in your community
- profit from mistakes

look at headings of the two kits in US & UK

- focus on things that go wrong/dissect it
- helps with developing frequently asked questions

Joe: Jane & Martin could work together on FAQ's

- look at mistakes that have been made

Elke: language is a problem. Wants to read text when written and add to it

Valentine: cultural context flows in one culture, not necessarily another.

- ex. council has no meaning in other places. Have to find own word

Joe: So. American countries get together and work together (Valentine, Bronwen, Saskia)

Baby: difficult to write and speak due to language. Wants to join someone to work. Her organization is just beginning so her input is very valuable. The questions Baby would ask would be very important.

Elke: We have templates to add to a kit. Jane and Saskia are interested to see. Elke will put them together.

Joe: ask everyone to assign a task to themselves

Saskia wants to work on AVP principles in Organizing management

Martin wants to work with her. Baby wants to work with them, too.

Elke can put templates together from Germany and will share.

Jane: grappling with what kind of governance works/sustainability  
how does local and regional group remain vital

Sustainability across cultures-Joe

look at AVPUSA and UK version-see what we want to bring forward

last comments: good energy, devotion in cooperative way

Next Meeting: 9am NY time works for people. stay with last Monday of the month. October 27th.